

nearly allied than to any other existing suborder of birds. One good genus of linking forms, at least, is the South-American *Picumnus*, as Parker has already shown; and Parker believed that the *Pici* "have a Passerine foundation."

I here venture to state that as our knowledge of the morphology of Aves becomes more perfect, the fact will be appreciated that the *Pici* and the *Passeres* are divergent groups from a common stock in time; and that the former have simply become highly specialized and modified in accordance with their mode of life and habits. This common stock Fürbringer has referred to as the 'Pico-Passeriformes,' and the root-stock just prior to the divergence the 'Pico-Passeres,' which latter he again subdivides into his families. This also appears to be in keeping with our present knowledge of the subject, and what the osteology of the groups in question seems to indicate.

## 2. Descriptions of two new Species of Parrots of the Genus *Platycercus*. By T. SALVADORI, C.M.Z.S.

[Received February 2, 1891.]

(Plate XII.)

### 1. *PLATYCERCUS XANTHOGENYS*, sp. nov.

Head, sides of the neck, and all the under surface dull scarlet; the feathers of the breast and abdomen with narrow pale yellow edges; cheeks pale yellow; feathers of the nape and back black, bordered with red; feathers of the rump and upper tail-coverts also black, broadly margined with olive-grey, the longest upper tail-coverts stained with red at the tip; a black patch on the upper wing-coverts, the exterior ones from the bend of the wing down to the primary-coverts and also the base of the outer webs of the primaries blue; inner greater wing-coverts and inner secondaries with grey edges, stained with yellowish or reddish; under wing-coverts blue; quills underneath black; sides of the body tinged with yellowish; thighs grey; central tail-feathers dull blue, the next pair of tail-feathers blue, brighter on the outer webs and tipped with white, the remaining tail-feathers light blue tipped with white and with the basal portion deep blue; bill horn-colour; feet brown. Total length 12·5 inches, wing 5·45, tail 6, bill 0·56, tarsus 0·63.

*Hab.* Unrecorded, but no doubt Australia.

This species is nearly allied to *P. icterotis* (Temm.), from which it differs in being larger and in having the cheeks of a paler yellow, the feathers of the back edged with red, the rump-feathers and upper tail-coverts edged with greyish olive, and the central tail-feathers blue, with no green. There are also other minor differences.

The type of this species, formerly in Gould's collection, is now in the British Museum; unfortunately it has no original label.

2. *PLATYCERCUS ERYTHROPEPLUS*, sp. nov. (Plate XII.)

*Male?* Head, neck, and lower parts red; cheeks blue, whitish near the lower mandible; feathers of the upper part of the back black with dark red edges, as in *P. pennanti* (Lath.); scapulars black, edged with pale yellow and tipped with red; lower back and rump greenish yellow, each feather edged with red; the red feathers of the breast and abdomen with yellow bases; middle of the abdomen and flanks yellow, with the edges of the feathers red; wings as in *P. eximius*; a black patch on the upper wing-coverts; edge of the wing and outer wing-coverts blue, the inner median and greater wing-coverts black, with a green longitudinal stripe inside the yellowish edges; primaries and anterior secondaries black, edged with blue near the base; inner secondaries black, edged with yellow and green; central tail-feathers green, passing into bluish at the tip, the remainder of the tail-feathers dark blue at the base, passing into light blue on the median part and white at the tip; bill whitish horn-colour; naked skin round the eyes and feet dusky flesh-colour; iris black. Size of *P. pennanti*.

*Female?* Similar to the male, only smaller and with the yellow colour on the sides of the breast and flanks more extended.

*Hab.* Australia.

These descriptions are taken from two specimens, apparently male and female, now living in the Society's Gardens, which were bought from a dealer, as from S. Australia.

They are intermediate between *P. pennanti* and *P. eximius*, and on examining them one cannot help thinking that they may be hybrids of the two species mentioned. But as cases of hybridism in wild birds are very rare, it becomes highly improbable that two hybrids should have been bought together, so that, I think, I am justified in considering them as belonging to a new species, intermediate, as I have already stated, between *P. pennanti* and *P. eximius*.

The following are the leading points of distinction:—

The red colour of the head and breast is, like that of *P. eximius*, a little brighter than in *P. pennanti*.

The feathers of the upper parts have broad red edges as in *P. pennanti*, while the scapulars are edged with pale yellow as in *P. eximius*, but tipped with red.

The red colour predominant on the underparts associates the new species with *P. pennanti*, but at the same time the yellow bases of the feathers of the breast and abdomen show a certain degree of affinity to *P. eximius*.

The yellow colour also in the middle of the abdomen and on the flanks and the two green central tail-feathers, passing into blue at the tip, betray affinity with *P. eximius*.